



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 8, 2009

## **MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET**

### **CITY UNVEILS “THE INCREDIBLE HULK” FIRE HELICOPTER**

#### *SDG&E Will Allow Region to Use Massive Helitanker for Rest of Fire Season*

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced that SDG&E will allow the region to use a massive fire helicopter for the remainder of the fire season. The helicopter, nicknamed “The Incredible Hulk,” is one of the largest firefighting helicopters on the planet, according to its manufacturer, Oregon-based Erickson Air-Crane Inc..

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department will be able to dispatch the S64E helitanker anywhere in the county. With a water-carrying capacity of more than 2,500 gallons, the Erickson helitanker has six times the capacity of each of the city’s two fire helicopters. The entire San Diego County region will have access to the helitanker for the next 60 to 90 days, depending on the length of the fire season.

In these tough fiscal times, SDG&E is giving the city a bargain-basement price. SDG&E will cover all the costs of leasing and staffing the copter during the time it isn’t used for firefighting. The company will also pay all the costs for the first two hours the helitanker is dispatched on a fire.

Mayor Sanders was joined today by City Council President Ben Hueso, County Supervisor Ron Roberts, fire officials from throughout San Diego County and executives from SDG&E.

“I’d like to thank SDG&E for stepping up to the plate,” Mayor Sanders said. “Obviously we hope we never have to use this helitanker. But everyone in San Diego County can sleep a bit easier knowing we have one more massive weapon in our firefighting arsenal.”

###

